

**REPORT/RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
AND RECORD OF ACTION**

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July 29, 2003

FROM: JAMES A. FELTEN, Public Health Programs Administrator
Department of Public Health

**SUBJECT: GRANT APPLICATION TO U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN
DEVELOPMENT FOR LEAD-BASED PAINT HAZARD REDUCTION DEMONSTRATION
GRANT**

RECOMMENDATION: Approve grant application and authorize its submission to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development for a Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Demonstration Grant Program in the amount of \$4,000,000 for the period January 1, 2004 through June 30, 2007.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Approval of this action will allow the Department of Public Health to submit an application, in the amount of \$4,000,000, to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for a Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Demonstration Grant Program directed toward homes with children under the age of 6.

The anticipated grant cycle is 42 months beginning January 1, 2004. The application must be postmarked no later than July 31, 2003. The Department will return to the Board to request any necessary additional positions and accept and budget any funds that may ultimately result from this application.

Lead poisoning is a significant environmental health problem for children in California. Medical evidence indicates that neurological damage can occur at very low levels of lead exposure, and that these lead-related medical problems and the resultant learning impairments can result in substantial medical and societal cost. Most children who are lead poisoned do not display symptoms.

The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides funding to State, local, and tribal governments for the development or expansion of programs to identify and control lead-based paint hazards in eligible privately-owned homes, with primary emphasis on making homes lead safe for children. The purpose of the Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Demonstration Grant Program is to assist areas with the greatest need in regards to conducting lead-based paint hazard reduction activities, including inspections, risk assessments, interim controls, abatement efforts and temporary relocations in eligible privately owned units occupied by low income residents.

Proposed Activities

Within its application, the Department proposes the development and implementation of a comprehensive lead-based paint hazards reduction, abatement and education program. The Department will identify and rehabilitate 310 homes annually within the County of San Bernardino with identified lead-hazards and children under the age of six residing within the homes. Eligible homes will be identified through a comprehensive screening process that will involve such factors as age of housing stock, confirmed risk assessment, low income status, and age of children residing within the home. Per grant guidelines, this program will serve only homes that contain children under the age of 6.

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Additionally, the Department will conduct a community awareness, education and outreach program on lead hazard control and lead poisoning prevention. The education program will also incorporate education of owners of rental properties, and training on lead-safe work practices.

Proposed Partners

To conduct all the proposed activities, the Department has indicated within its application partnerships with three specific agencies. Those agencies are: Neighborhood Housing Services of Inland Empire (NHSIE); San Bernardino City Economic Development Agency (EDA) and Community Services Department (CSD). Each of the agencies was chosen because of its previous and current expertise in the areas of housing rehabilitation and lead-based paint abatement. These agencies already possess staff knowledgeable in the areas of lead-based paint, are cognizant of all existing standards for lead-safe work practices, and have established relationships with local agencies that are certified in conducting lead-based paint hazard inspections and assessment, hazard reduction and abatement, and clearance measures. Additionally, these agencies have committed sizeable matching contributions to the requested grant amount. Both NHSIE and City EDA will provide further rehabilitative enhancement to the units proposed to be served through existing Exterior Beautification Grants. CSD has committed as a match to the proposed units, enhancements through its existing Weatherization Project. Because these agencies are already included in the Department's application as partners, the Department will not be conducting a competitive process to conduct any of the lead-based paint assessment, abatement and clearance activities, if awarded funds.

Anticipated Staffing

If awarded funds, the Department intends to recruit and hire 1.0 FTE of Public Health Program Coordinator to conduct the day-to-day supervision and oversight of the grant, and all subcontracted agencies. All other activities, including overall grant management, health education, and public health nursing (to conduct the blood lead sampling) will be conducted by existing Department staff funded by existing realignment and State grant funds which will be considered part of HUD's required in-kind match. The public health nursing and health education activities are easily integrated with the Department's existing State grant funded Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program.

The Notice of Funding established a minimum threshold requirement of a 25% match from all applicants. The Department budget includes a 65 % (or \$2.65 million) match. The match is comprised of the following:

- \$2.2 million from the proposed grant partners. As indicated earlier, each of the proposed partners have committed a sizeable in-kind match by providing further rehabilitative efforts to the units served through existing Exterior Beautification and Weatherization Projects.
- \$225,000 from the Department of Public Health. This match includes staff time and general operating expenditures. The staff time includes management and health education personnel already included in the Department's budget and funded by existing realignment and grant funds. Additionally, the public health nursing staff time committed to conduct blood lead sampling is currently funded by the State under the Department's existing Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program. HUD permits State grant funded activities to satisfy the 25% in-kind match requirement.

REVIEW BY OTHERS: This item has been reviewed by County Counsel (Scott Runyan, Deputy County Counsel) on July 21, 2003. This item has also been reviewed by the Administrative Office (Carol Hughes, Administrative Analyst) on July 17, 2003.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: Approval of this item requires no local County cost. The grant requires a 25% in-kind match that will be met through integration of this program with the Department's current State funded Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program and through existing local realignment funds. Additionally, the proposed partners included within the application have committed sizeable matches to further enhance the proposed activities. The combined in-kind match of approximately \$2.4 million from all participants exceeds the required 25% minimum. All other expenditures will be fully reimbursed by HUD. The Department will return to the Board to request the necessary additional position and accept and budget any funds resulting from this application.

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COST REDUCTION REVIEW: The County Administrative Office has reviewed this item and recommends approval as it will impose no cost to the county and will allow the Department to better meet the health needs of San Bernardino County residents.

SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT(S): All

PRESENTER: James A. Felten, Public Health Programs Administrator, (909) 387-9146